

State Historical Library

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VOL. II.

LEWISTOWN, MONTANA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1904.

NO. 39.

MONTANA SOCIALISTS HAVE NOMINATED

Their Ticket Composed of People of the Laboring Class, and a Platform that stands for Humanity and Justice to All, is now Before You for Careful, Candid and Thorough Consideration.---Workmen of the World Unite!

For Presidential Electors—
W. N. Holden, of Silver Bow.
J. F. Maybe, of Park.
Joseph Hoar, of Silver Bow.
For Governor—
George O'Mally, of Silver Bow.
For Lieutenant Governor—
John W. Frinke, of Deer Lodge.
For Congressman—
J. H. Walsh, of Fergus.
For Chief Justice of Supreme Court—
C. M. Parr, of Silver Bow.
For Clerk of Supreme Court—
John Peters, of Carbon.
For Secretary of State—
H. Lynch, of Fergus.
For State Treasurer—
Erik Olson, of Cascade.
For State Auditor—
W. C. Phelps, of Lewis & Clarke.
For Attorney General—
E. O. Jackson, of Silver Bow.
For State Superintendent of Public Instruction—
Mrs. R. Anna German, of Silver Bow.

W. H. Pierce State Secretary of the Socialist Party of Butte, Montana, called the State Socialist convention to order at 1 p. m., June 6th, 1904 at G. A. R., Hall, Helena, and then read the call as previously published and distributed through the state.

First—Was nominations in order for Chairman. G. B. Sproule of Helena placed N. E. Levensgood of Anaconda in nomination; Erik Olson of Great Falls nominated W. A. Doyle; Doyle withdrew in favor of Levensgood;

C. C. McHugh of Anaconda placed W. A. Doyle in nomination for secretary.

Committee on credentials was then elected as follows: W. H. Pierce, Dr. J. Calder of Butte; Wm. Dick of Red Lodge, Erik Olson of Great Falls, G. W. Strieb moved to take 20 minutes recess. Carried.

On reconvening the committee on credentials reported 36 delegates present as follows:

Hamilton—E. Bryan.
Helena—J. W. Rose, George B. Sproule.

Clancy—F. W. Streib, John Brack Chico—J. F. Maybe.

Butte—George Ambrose, Henry Schmidt, L. A. Van Horn, C. M. Parr, Thomas A. Hickey, Dr. Calder, Mrs. W. H. Pierce, W. H. Pierce, W. N. Holden, Mrs. R. Anna German, E. O. Jackson. Canyon Ferry—Mrs. Ruth Scurlock.

Gilt Edge—Robert Hendry.

Missoula—T. D. Caulfield.

Bozeman—H. Topel, C. A. Weiss.

Lewistown—J. H. Walsh, H. Lynch.

Great Falls—W. A. Doyle, Erik Olson.

Anaconda—C. C. McHugh, Harry A. Denny, N. E. Levensgood, J. H. Schwend.

Stockett—M. F. Purcell.

Red Lodge—W. F. Dick, Alex Fairgrievies.

Livingston—Clarence Bishop, J. D. Graham.

G. B. Sproule, moved report of the committee be accepted and the committee be discharged. McHugh of Anaconda moved to amend that the committee be not discharged

owing to the fact that other delegates to the convention might arrive later. Carried.

T. A. Hickey of Butte moved that a committee on rules and order be elected; the following were elected: H. Lynch of Lewistown, F. D. Caulfield of Missoula, W. N. Holden of Butte. Adjourned at 2.15 for one hour. Chairman Levensgood announced at 3.15 that owing to the fact that the committee was not ready to report, the convention would be entertained by a song sung by Comrade Jas. Newman, entitled the "Battle Cry."

At 3.25 the committee on rules and order of business were ready to report the same being read by Henry Lynch, Secretary of the committee.

The report of the committee was fairly riddled by objections on certain points by a number of delegates, the opposition to the report being led by T. A. Hickey, who said in part as follows: "I object most strenuously to that part of the report, which says, that the conventions shall not deal with the political side of the movement. We have seen in Illinois, the largest state convention ever seen by our party, at which 130 delegates were present and were divided between the programists and the impossibilists and there for two days the convention voted upon important questions, regardless of the amount of time consumed. I also object to that part of the resolution that we shall speak for five minutes. It is customary in other conventions, that the speaker can continue, if the other delegates concede their time to him, but however that is unimportant."

Delegate Smith objects, because he believes it is the duty of this convention to act on all business that may come before it, and that my instructions are to always stick to the referendum.

Delegate Sproule supported the report of the committee, and contended that the dividing of the work between the state committee and the state convention would facilitate matters and give better attention to the work and this convention will at all times have to stick to the referendum on all matters.

Alex Fairgrieve appeared before the convention and asked that during the strike in the city that the members of the convention assist the unions in their fight against the unfair street car lines, Central Park and Broadwater.

Walsh asked Comrade Fairgrieve, "That in the event that the Socialists accepted the suggestion, and assisted the unionists in this matter, would the unionists assist the Socialists at the next election or would they go to the polls and scab?"

Comrade Sproule considered that as a Socialist convention we had but little to do with the boycotting business.

Comrade Jackson contended that the laboring people were the people we were fighting for, but never before had the trades unions come to us to ask us to help them, and I am glad to know that the trades unionists are now coming to us; we have been going to them for some time. We are fighting for humanity and not any union, but nearly every one has a card in his pocket, and nearly every other man in this convention possibly has one.

The work of electing the com-

mittee on platform was then taken up and the following committee was elected by acclamation: Walsh, Lewistown; Schwend, Anaconda; Ambrose, Butte; Dick, Red Lodge; Strieb, Clancy; Maybe, Chico; Denny, Anaconda.

The election of committees on auditing and constitution was next taken up and in the same manner the following committees were chosen:

Auditing—H. Lynch, Lewistown; Weiss, Bozeman; Mrs. German, Butte.

Constitution—Hickey, Butte; McHugh, Anaconda; Levensgood, Anaconda; Bryan, Hamilton; Brack, Clancy; Caulfield, Missoula; Olson, Great Falls; Topel, Bozeman; Graham, Livingston.

Adjourned to meet Tuesday morning at 9 a. m.

Tuesday, June 7th the convention reconvened at 9.20 a. m., with N. E. Levensgood in the chair. On calling the meeting to order the chairman stated that he had a communication from Ex-State Secretary Cooney which he desired to read before proceeding to the election of a chairman. Graham of Livingston favored an executive session for the consideration of such business for it was well understood that the communication referred to a little inside party turmoil. Walsh of Lewistown opposed the executive session, and urged that every act and move of the Socialist party be made in public.

Finally after a little discussion pro and con the communication was read and by motion was laid on the table. The effort then to raise the matter from the table to reconsider with the intention of referring the matter back to the Butte Local was lost, and T. A. Hickey nominated W. N. Holden of Butte as chairman, which nomination was unanimous. Comrade Holden took the chair for the day.

The committee on platform announced that they were ready to report. On motion to take up the platform section by section the roll call was asked and the vote stood 21 for; 14 against.

It was here that the comrades began to show interest and the first difference of opinion was raised over the use of the word in the platform of "worker," "laborer" and "wage worker." A motion by Woolridge to substitute the word Socialism for "worker" opened the debate.

(Section 1) Mr. Parr: "I don't see why you object to that clause. Who are the working classes in the country? Every man outside of millionaires in this country is the working class. We must first consider who are the working class. In placing that in the platform, I don't think the committee drew the line on anyone outside of millionaires; and I say the Socialist party should draw the line there. We have millionaires now conducting the government of the state, and we think it is time to draw the line on these people." Every man who performs labor is of the working class, and I think this is why we should object."

Mrs. German: "I agree with this gentleman, and those who are interested as professional persons and have the opportunity to hear the opinion of that class, and there is a tendency among the Socialists to draw the line of demarcation be-

tween the working people and the professional class, and I think it is doing a great deal of detriment to the Socialist party and if it is possible to amend that clause, I think it would be well. Perhaps the comrades are not aware that they are using that expression promiscuously, and there is a tendency among the professional class to resent this, as they are also wage earners there seems to be a tendency to draw a line between them. We find it in every statement sent out by the Socialists. I noticed it the other day in regard to a nomination for President and Vice-president, and it remarked particularly that they were common people. We are all common laborers and there shouldn't be any difference, but there seems to be and it is causing a great deal of dissension, and keeping many out of the ranks."

Doyle: "It would be too bad if we should throw out anything that would make us feel we are above workers. For experience shows that we are not to draw any line, and we want to make it so plain that professional people understand that they are wage workers among the rest of us. We are all workers here, and we have to classify ourselves as the working people. Some seem to want to draw this line. I don't wish to think that we would go back to those ideas that are a little Utopian; we must stick strictly to the practical ideas in this thing. We must have no distinguishing; we are all working people. How can you put any word in there in the place of working people? Where is there any word in the dictionary to show distinction between working people? As soon as the middle class recognize the fact that they are on the same level as all of us, the better they are off. Some of these think they are on the road to capitalism. The middle class must be assimilated."

McHugh: "Everybody knows that the working class includes all who do not own land, tools and machinery, and have nothing to sell but their own labor of muscle or brain. I move that it be adopted."

Woolridge: "The statements of the comrades are true enough. I want to call attention however, to the fact that this whole thing is a kick against the national platform adopted at Chicago, and I want to say that it does us no credit as masters of the English language if we cannot put it in better form than that. We would far better cast it in better form."

Clause two and three adopted. (Clause 4) Woolridge: "I object to this clause. I object that the wage system is but a part of that clause. I object, that it is the entire commercial system, the entire competitive system; and furthermore I object to putting that into our platform for the reason that the ground has been more than sufficiently covered, and that it is no part of Socialism, though all true. And furthermore, when we get Socialism it will be the remedy of those evils and not the statement of those evils, and I therefore move that the entire clause be not adopted."

Mrs. Scurlock: "Seems to me that Socialists have to be class conscious or nothing. No matter what we are working at, we are all workers all the same, whether with the pen, the brain or the shovel.

Those who are living off of others, simply exploit others and do nothing, and are opposed to us."

Graham: "In this state we have a great pile of two-legged mules who believe that any legislation for the benefit of Heinze is for the benefit of the working classes because it keeps two corporations in the state. Another is in favor of the Amalgamated. They believe that it is for the interest of the working class that they have a job. I believe that this class ought to be instructed that we are in favor of every legislation that will advance the cause of the co-operative commonwealth."

Dick: "I am surprised at Comrade Graham that he should utter such a statement. I am surprised that after I have been with him so long that he should actually defend such a move; we are not here talking for either Heinze or the Amalgamated; we have come here to draw the line and then you must either be on the one side or the other."

Adopted as read. Clauses 10, 11, 12 and 13 adopted.

Walsh moved that the platform as amended be adopted as a whole; carried.

fore, their servants, thus in effect making government the executive committee of the capitalists.

"This fact demands as an inevitable conclusion the organization of the working class into a political party that shall be everywhere and always distinct from and opposed to every political party not founded entirely upon the interests of the working class. The Socialist party is organized to meet this demand, and is, therefore, the party of the working class."

"The Socialist party, when in office, shall always and everywhere, until the present system of wage slavery is utterly abolished, make the answer to this question its guiding rule of conduct: 'Will this legislation advance the interests of the working class and aid the workers in their class struggle against capitalism? If it does, the Socialist party is for it; if it does not, the Socialist party is absolutely opposed to it.'"

"In accordance with the principle, the Socialist party pledges itself to conduct all the public affairs of this state in such a manner as to promote the interests of the working class."

"In conclusion we appeal to all workmen to study the principles of Socialism and vote with their class at all elections, until they overthrow the power of capitalism, abolish industrial classes in society, terminate forever the class struggle, and inaugurate the co-operative commonwealth, based upon this fundamental principle of justice."

"To every worker the full product of his labor."

"Workers of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but your chains. You have a world to gain."

Following the adoption of the platform Comrade Woolridge was granted the floor for a few minutes when he spoke in part as follows: "Gentlemen: It seems to me the most difficult thing that we can meet is to get a little Socialism into a Socialist convention. I may be pardoned perhaps for stating before you my reasons for speaking for Socialism. I was engaged in the work of Socialism in 1886. I have done some work that has made Socialists who have become prominent men in this movement. I heard it stated in the committee on Platform and Resolutions that there is nothing for us to do but to burst things up. There is no Socialism in that. The man who said that and knew what he was talking about is not a Socialist. Tearing down is no part of it. Our duty is to know the way and remove obstacles which are established by law at every turn and we cannot take a step until we meet them. They head us off on every turn. The only thing we can do politically at present is to remove these. I ask that this convention declare itself in removing these obstacles, established by law. That is the first thing to do. Open the door to let your activities open the way for them. Enfranchise your towns and cities with the power to take action leading on to the co-operative commonwealth. (Interrupted.)"

The request of T. A. Hickey that a resolution recently submitted was on motion referred to the committee on platform and resolutions, to be acted upon before being brought before the convention.

"We demand the collective ownership of the mines, factories, rail roads and land, and all utilities collectively used by the people."

"The wage system is the cause of starvation, disease, crime, prostitution, child labor, stunted bodies and warped minds for the workers, while it gives to the capitalists palaces for homes, the pick of the world's markets for their food, the finest raiment, culture, education, travel, and all that makes life worth living."

"Society is thus divided into two hostile classes, capitalists and wage workers. This condition has brought into birth the Socialist party, the political expression of the struggle of the working class for power. This party owes allegiance to and is a part of the international Socialist movement. With a system of industry owned and operated by the workers, the struggle for existence would be shifted from the individual to society as a whole."

"The ownership of the means of production and distribution by the capitalist class gives this control of the legislatures, the courts and all executive officers. Republican, democrat and reform parties are financed by the capitalists and are, there-

fore, their servants, thus in effect making government the executive committee of the capitalists.

"This fact demands as an inevitable conclusion the organization of the working class into a political party that shall be everywhere and always distinct from and opposed to every political party not founded entirely upon the interests of the working class. The Socialist party is organized to meet this demand, and is, therefore, the party of the working class."

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(Continued next week.)